

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 18, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 103

Introduced by Senator De León

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brown, Fong, Fox, and Medina)

March 27, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103—Relative to California/El Salvador relations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 103, as amended, De León. California and El Salvador: ~~partnership.~~ *election.*

This measure would ~~extend an invitation to commend the government of El Salvador to partner with California to promote democratic institutions, the rule of law, and economic opportunity and growth, and to foster international understanding through increased trade and investment and mutually beneficial educational, economic, and cultural exchanges between California's and El Salvador's institutions on its handling of the recent election and would recognize the efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and other institutions in assisting with the election in the spirit of the Chapultepec Peace Accords.~~

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of California is
- 2 committed to ~~encouraging relationships and exchanges between~~
- 3 ~~California and other regions of the world in order to promote better~~
- 4 ~~economic ties, understanding, and cultural relations~~ *recognizing*
- 5 *democratic governments in their efforts to develop policies that*

1 *support the rule of law and the long-term economic growth and*
2 *shared prosperity of all members of society; and*

3 WHEREAS, El Salvador and California have long shared
4 common interests and each stand to benefit from increased trade,
5 investment, and tourism, as well as cultural, educational, and
6 scientific exchanges; and

7 WHEREAS, The 12-year Salvadoran Civil War, which began
8 in the early ~~1980's~~ *1980s*, took the lives of over 75,000
9 Salvadorans, resulted in a ~~massive influx of refugees to California,~~
10 ~~specifically to Los Angeles and San Francisco~~ *displacement of*
11 *over 500,000 people, and was concluded with the signing of the*
12 *Chapultepec Peace Accords in Mexico City in 1992; and*

13 WHEREAS, El Salvador's peace settlement, as summarized by
14 the United States Institute of Peace, provided for a cease-fire, the
15 demobilization of military and guerrilla forces, the establishment
16 of the rebel Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN)
17 as a political party, and the reintegration of its combatants into
18 society. The Chapultepec Peace Accords further committed the
19 government to making changes in the nature, responsibilities, and
20 size of the country's armed forces, creating a new national civilian
21 police force and an intelligence service separate from the military,
22 implementing human rights measures, adopting electoral and
23 judicial reforms, and providing limited social and economic
24 programs primarily benefiting members of the demobilized forces
25 and war-ravaged communities; and

26 WHEREAS, A majority of Salvadorans fleeing the civil war
27 came to the United States, with most coming to Los Angeles and
28 San Francisco; and

29 WHEREAS, The City of Los Angeles, a sister city to San
30 Salvador, is home to the largest concentration of Salvadoran
31 nationals in the United States, making it inextricably linked to the
32 nation of El Salvador; and

33 WHEREAS, Of the 1.6 million Salvadorans who live in the
34 United States, more than 500,000 call California home. Salvadorans
35 constitute the second largest Latino community in California, and
36 live in major cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles; and

37 WHEREAS, The state's 22nd Senate District encompasses the
38 neighborhoods of Pico-Union and Westlake, where many
39 Salvadoran refugees settled during the Salvadoran Civil War and
40 is also home to a plaza and statue in commemoration of the

humanitarian Monsignor Oscar A. Romero in MacArthur Park;
and

~~WHEREAS, El Salvador and California are committed by the
historic cultural relations between their people, which represents
an important opportunity to promote economic, commercial,
cultural, and business relations; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Establishing a formal relationship between El
Salvador and California would help achieve important goals, and
The California Legislature supports actions that would strengthen
and facilitate additional mutually beneficial exchanges in cities
like sister cities Los Angeles and San Salvador; and~~

~~WHEREAS, March 24, 2014 2014, is was a special occasion,
as it will mark marked the 34th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of
Monsignor Oscar A. Romero, whose tomb President Obama visited
on March 23, 2011; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Monsignor Romero is a historical icon of the
Salvadoran people, and in that spirit, the State of California joins
President Obama, the City of Los Angeles, the Salvadoran
community, the government of El Salvador, and millions of
followers in El Salvador and around the world, in paying tribute
to his life and teachings; and~~

~~WHEREAS, El Salvador recently held a presidential election
on March 9, 2014, that according to international observers,
including the Organization of American States (OAS), the United
Nations, and hundreds of United States citizens, was free and
democratic, and for which the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE)
was praised, for the election's transparency and professionalism;
and~~

~~WHEREAS, The State of California joins the United Nations,
international observers, the OAS, and many civil and religious
organizations in recognizing the work of the TSE, and calls upon
the commitment of the two major political parties to respect the
will of the people as demonstrated by the March 9th election, and
to respect the final outcome announced by the TSE, which has
TSE as the legal mandate under the Salvadoran Constitution; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The Addressing the socio-economic issues that
long fomented civil unrest in El Salvador prior to the civil war,
and which were again brought to the forefront in the global
recession in 2009, will take time and a consistent commitment by
the Salvadoran government to build an equitable economic~~

1 *environment that supports the efforts of workers and the middle*
2 *class to prosper and benefit from the nation's economic growth.*
3 *To this end, the State of California*~~*will work closely*~~ *can serve as*
4 *an important economic partner* with the newly democratically
5 elected government of El Salvador, and ~~*President-elect*~~ *President*
6 *Salvador Sánchez Cerén, to promote in promoting trade and private*
7 *investment in both El Salvador and California, and encourage*
8 ~~*Californian private companies to invest in El Salvador*~~ *California;*
9 *and*

10 WHEREAS, The United States prospered from a \$692.6 million
11 trade surplus with El Salvador in 2013; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
13 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature, on behalf of the people
14 of the State of California, ~~*hereby extends an invitation to the*~~
15 ~~*government of El Salvador to partner with California to commend*~~
16 ~~*the Salvadoran people for their high turnout in the election, as*~~
17 ~~*well as the state institutions for their professional handling of the*~~
18 ~~*election process. California looks forward to a positive and*~~
19 ~~*cooperative relationship with Salvadorans living in California*~~
20 ~~*and with President Sánchez Cerén and his government as they*~~
21 ~~*continue to forge new policies and take actions that promote*~~
22 ~~*democratic institutions, the rule of law, and economic opportunity*~~
23 ~~*and growth, and to foster international understanding through*~~
24 ~~*increased trade and investment and mutually beneficial educational,*~~
25 ~~*economic, and cultural exchanges between California's and El*~~
26 ~~*Salvador's institutions*~~ *growth for all Salvadorans, in the spirit of*
27 *the Chapultepec Peace Accords; and be it further*

28 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
29 this resolution to the President of El Salvador, to the Governor of
30 California, and to the author for appropriate distribution.